

Letter of Samuel Jones to his father Johnathan Jones, dated at Pickwaket,  
June 13th, 1770

I am submitting this letter as a tribute to honor Samuel Jones, my 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather on my mother's side. He was born in Falmouth, Maine and died at sea during the Revolutionary War. This is the only letter my family has from him, from a time when he went to serve an apprenticeship in Conway, New Hampshire.

"Pickwaket" is the original name of Fryeburg, Maine. I have here copied his exact spelling and punctuation errors as closely as I could.

Sarah Marshall, 2004

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*To John<sup>a</sup>. Jones, Esq<sup>r</sup>,  
Falmouth*

*Pickwaket, Jun y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>, 1770 -*

*Hon<sup>d</sup>. Sir:*

*Thefe are to Inform you how I reach'd Pickwaket about 6 o'Clock laft night & thot now to write you while I can - I am well & lodg'd at y<sup>e</sup> houle of Cap<sup>t</sup>. Timothy Walker, a fine houle of good ftyle with 4 Glafs windos on fome 40 Acres & to day by him & Col<sup>o</sup>. Fry y<sup>e</sup> Prop<sup>r</sup> was fhownd y<sup>e</sup> improvments here - s<sup>d</sup> town lyes on y<sup>e</sup> Sawco upper courfe nigh upon New Hampfhire, tho I cam here by way of Pondycherry a new plantation like Pickwaket upon y<sup>e</sup> Fronteer in y<sup>e</sup> countey of York with none elfe untill a place far to y<sup>e</sup> North wher is a camp for biling Suger - Many head of cattle are pastur'd here for y<sup>e</sup> grafs is fit for hay & ~~men may citch~~ alfo ther are many Deer & Bair which men cam firft to trap for & citch furs - one a man nam'd Keyfer I faw with a brace of frefh beevers fo large as feem'd Dogs.*

*On Monday y<sup>e</sup> 11th inst. I was at Pondycherry afores<sup>d</sup> a fmall place beyond y<sup>e</sup> Sabago wher one M<sup>r</sup>. Kimball keeps a fine Storhoufe, tho Col<sup>o</sup>. Fry fpoke not highly of him for as he fays he fold a cag of Rum to y<sup>e</sup> indians, with them he trades freely to y<sup>e</sup> Cols Difspleasur - Says ther are not fo plenty here as in former time but fome few live to Eaft<sup>d</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> town & of late com down from Cannada by which y<sup>e</sup> fettlment is much delay'd for fear of them - Pickwaket is an indian word for y<sup>e</sup> grate village that was here befor Capt. Lovell cam - Col<sup>o</sup>. Fry fhowd me y<sup>e</sup> fpot at Sawco pond wher was y<sup>e</sup> Fight & y<sup>e</sup> mens names graven in y<sup>e</sup> trees - I faw no indians but heard M<sup>r</sup>s. Walker tell of one a Christian Squah nam'd Moll who laft Spring heald her finger which was cut, & another Tom who is fhe fays always much in Liquir - Cap<sup>t</sup>. Walker*

has a good mill here & also there is one build at Pondyerry kept by a man call'd Stephens, tho as yet is only a few mill for y<sup>e</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup>. told me, for that many there are oblig'd to send their Grist to him.

- Also here a Smith carries out grate trade in mending, shoeing horses &c. which I found necessary at my arrival, my horse having thrown a shoe from y<sup>e</sup> rough travail.

Pickwacket is y<sup>e</sup> largest settlement at this place, on a broad Plain with much good land run out in 7 lots by Col<sup>o</sup>. Fry himself & Others, but adjoining are clearings S. Westwardly at Cap<sup>t</sup>. Browns & Eastwardly at Pondyerry which y<sup>e</sup> Col. did assist in running y<sup>e</sup> Boundaries - That of Cap<sup>t</sup>. Brown lies so close as to seem a part of Pickwacket but s<sup>d</sup> Pondyerry is a days travel as I found it by horse - y<sup>e</sup> road thence is a wild confusion & I could not have crossed y<sup>e</sup> Sawco but for Col. Fry nephew maintains a crossing there for which I was oblig'd to pay him 2:d fare - Here also there are many small hills, as Pine & Starks hill so call'd & East lies a long Mountain ye which is now call'd Pleasant but as was formerly Amuchikadjo as I heard it s<sup>d</sup> by Col<sup>o</sup>. Fry who has climbed it, y<sup>e</sup> which is another Savage word - But that Pondyerry is so call'd for his past friend an Officer at Fort Acady, & is not an Indian word but French as I think it - There are not many at s<sup>d</sup> town as yet but a very few men there to raise their Corn & Sugar: ~~they suffer much without~~ they (as here) have no Meetinghouse and suffer much for want of the Gospel, but to Pickwacket ministers do come by Grace to preach on certain occasions - I heard tell of one Rev<sup>d</sup>. Coffin of Narrackanfet who has been here & says he will come again, for whom many wait.

I hope soon to be among friends & will write more from Conway which I expect to reach it on Friday, at which place I am set to work for M<sup>r</sup>. G as you know I remain Sir,

Y<sup>r</sup>. Faithful Son  
Sam<sup>l</sup>. Jones